

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17534 221442Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 SSM-03
/082 W

-----031687 221446Z /53

O 221435Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1754
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17534

JIDDA FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON; RABAT FOR ASST
SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PEPR PGOV EG IS
SUBJECT: SADAT ON PEACE PROCESS

SUMMARY: SADAT EFFUSIVELY PRAISES PRESIDENT CARTER AND
SEVERELY CRITICIZES BEGIN AS "ONLY OBSTACLE" TO PEACE.
HE AFFIRMS TO ARAB CRITICS GOLAN NOT FORGOTTEN.
SIGNIFICANT OMISSION IS FOLLOW-UP TO LEEDS WHICH INDICATES
HE KEEPING ALL OPTIONS OPEN. INCLUSION OF DAYAN'S
INSISTENCE ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSION CONFIRMS THAT
EGYPTIANS FOUND THIS MOST DISTURBING ELEMENT AT LEEDS,
BUT PLEASED IT MADE IN PRESENCE SECRETARY. END
SUMMARY.

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1. AT END OF TWO-HOUR SPEECH SADAT DEPARTED FROM TEXT TO
DISCUSS PEACE PROCESS. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED BRIEFING
ON LEEDS MEETING FROM FONMIN KAMEL. (AMBASSADOR MAHER
TOLD POLCOUNS EARLIER THAT KAMEL HAD BRIEFED SADAT AT
LENGTH BY PHONE LAST EVENING). SADAT'S MAIN POINTS WERE:

2. PRAISE FOR CARTER. HE ACCEPTED LEEDS MEETING AND SUBMITTED EGYPTIAN PLAN AT CARTER'S REQUEST. ON BASIS "MY POSITIVE FRIENDSHIP AND DEALINGS WITH HIM I CAN HONESTLY STATE THAT WHAT WE USED TO COMPLAIN OF ABOUT AMERICA DURING DAYS OF DULLES AND ROGERS IS NO LONGER TRUE." CARTER'S ACTIONS BASED ON ETHICS AND PRINCIPLES. FOR EXAMPLE, AT TIME OF ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON, U.S. HAD SUBMITTED RESOLUTION TO UNSC FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL AND CREATION OF EMERGENCY FORCE IN 24 HOURS. "IF CARTER HAD BEEN PRESENT IN 1967, INSTEAD OF ARTHUR GOLDBERG, WE WOULD NOT BE SUFFERING WHAT WE ARE NOW. HE IS A MAN OF ETHICS AND PRINCIPLES."

3. GOLAN. NEITHER SINAI NOR GOLAN MENTIONED IN EGYPTIAN PLAN BECAUSE IT DEALS ONLY WITH WEST BANK AND GAZA, THE CRUX OF PROBLEM. SINAI AND GOLAN ARE SIDE ISSUES. ISRAELI OFFERS OF SEPARATE PEACE CONTINUE TO BE REJECTED BECAUSE "WE MUST SOLVE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM."

4. BEGIN. PEACE CAN BE REACHED IN HOURS. "ONLY OBSTACLE" IS THAT BEGIN BELIEVES HE CAN OBTAIN PEACE, SECURITY AND RECOGNITION AND, IN ADDITION, TERRITORY. AS FOR PEACE, SECURITY, RECOGNITION AND GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS, YES. "AS FOR TERRITORY AND SOVEREIGNTY, NO -- 1,000 NO'S. "BEGIN IS REPEATING THAT I AM AGAINST HIM FOR SOMETHING PERSONAL. I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT THE DESTINY
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OF PEOPLES CANNOT BE SUBJECT TO PERSONAL ANGER -- NEVER. I ASSURE MR. BEGIN I DO NOT HARBOR SPITE. HE IS ANGRY OVER MY MEETINGS WITH PERES AND WEIZMAN." WEIZMAN DID NOT CARRY BACK NEW PLAN, BUT "WE DISCUSSED ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE" BECAUSE OF "RADICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEGIN AND ME." "BEGIN BELIEVES PEACE TREATY IS EVERYTHING, BUT I SAY IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF HARD WORK." PEACE TO BEGIN IS HIS "GREEDY AMBITION" FOR TERRITORY, AND DAYAN CONFESSED AT LEEDS IN PRESENCE OF VANCE THAT THEY ARE AFTER TERRITORY."

5. COMMENT: DESPITE DISCLAIMER OF PERSONAL GRUDGE, SADAT'S ATTACK ON BEGIN AS "ONLY OBSTACLE" TO PEACE IS MOST SEVERE TO DATE. SADAT'S EXPLANATION FOR OMISSION OF GOLAN IN EGYPT'S PLAN IS BACKDOOR AFFIRMATION TO HIS ARAB CRITICS THAT GOLAN NOT FORGOTTEN, JUST NOT CENTRAL ISSUE. MOST SIGNIFICANT OMISSION IS ANY MENTION OF POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP MEETING TO LEEDS, WHICH WE INTERPRET AS SADAT'S DESIRE TO KEEP ALL OPTIONS OPEN PENDING OUTCOME OF SUNDAY'S ISRAELI CABINET MEETING AND ATHERTON/VANCE VISITS. ON JULY 26 SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE ANOTHER SPEECH IN WHICH HE MAY DEVOTE MORE TIME TO PEACE PROCESS.

6. SADAT'S INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DAYAN'S INSISTENCE THAT SOME TERRITORIAL CONCESSION NECESSARY CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THESE PAST TWO DAYS THAT MOST DISTURBING ELEMENT FOR EGYPTIANS AT LEEDS WAS THIS OPEN ISRAELI ADMISSION. THIS, REGRETTABLY, IS LIKELY TO OVERSHADOW SOME OF MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ASPECTS OF LEEDS TALKS, INCLUDING COMMON ELEMENTS IN TWO PLANS. AHMAD MAHER, ZN COMMENTING TO POLCOUNS ON THIS ASPECT, EXPRESSED SATISFACTIONAT DAYAN STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE IN SECRETARY VANCE'S PRESENCE SO THAT U.S. CAN NO LONGER BE IN DOUBT ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Subject: SADAT ON PEACE PROCESS SUMMARY: SADAT EFFUSIVELY PRAISES PRESIDENT CARTER AND SEVERELY CRITICIZES BEGIN AS "ONLY OBSTACLE" TO PE
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, PBOR, PGOV, SOPN, EG, IS, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
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